

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/605,445

Applicant(s)

BUENZ, LARRY

Examiner

Michael C. Zarroli

Art Unit

2839

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the response received 5/3/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-16.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 9/30/03 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

MICHAEL C. ZARROLI
PATENT EXAMINER

Michael C. Zarroli
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 2839

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Andrew Babcock on 6/11/04. This examiner amendment overcame a new interpretation of the previously cited art. The examiner agreed with the applicant's arguments in the applicant's response of 5/3/04, but was able to reinterpret the Lundback et al reference to further reject all the claims.

The application has been amended as follows: Revise claims 1, 8, 13 and, 16.

Claim 1, change the last three lines as follows, --a **surface to surface** positive stop between the clamp nut and the connector body **that stops** [limiting] the compression force **at** [to] a **predetermined** [desired] maximum **torque** [level] by preventing further movement of the clamp nut towards the connector body--.

Claim 8, change the last three lines as follows, --a surface to surface positive stop between the clamp nut and the connector body that stops [limiting] the compression force at [to] a predetermined [desired] maximum torque [level] by preventing further movement of the clamp nut towards the connector body--.

Claim 13, change the last three lines as follows, --a surface to surface positive stop between the clamp nut and the connector body that stops [limiting] the compression force at [to] a predetermined [desired] maximum torque [level] by preventing further movement of the clamp nut towards the connector body--.

Claim 16, change the last five lines as follows, --threading the clamp nut to the connector body until a surface to surface positive stop is reached; the threading urging the clamp nut against the circular coil spring against the flared leading edge against the connector body, creating a maximum predetermined [desired] compression force of the flared leading edge onto the connector body--.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: None of the prior art of record either alone or in combination discloses the combination in

the independent claims specifically, the surface to surface stop that stops the torque of the clamp nut onto the connector. Over tightening and a torque tool are precluded with this arrangement.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Pitschi et al and Kooiman teach a clamping nut and connector but no positive stop between the two (e.g. see figures 3 to 4 Pitschi). Bocher and Juds et al teach a clamping nut and connector but no positive stop between the two; see Bocher fig. 5, just above reference number 31 and, Juds fig. 3 to the right of reference number 72. Muller et al talks about a surface to surface positive stop but without any of the coaxial connector structure recited by the applicant.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael C. Zarroli whose telephone number is 571-272-2101. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 to 3:30 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynne Feild can be reached on (571) 272-2800 ext 39. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Michael C. Zarroli
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2839

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